

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Loan Repayment Assistance for Dentists Act  
5 is amended by changing Sections 10, 15, 25, and 30 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 948/10)

7 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context  
8 otherwise requires:

9 "Dental payments" means compensation provided to dentists  
10 and dental specialists for services rendered under Article V of  
11 the Illinois Public Aid Code, the Covering ALL KIDS Health  
12 Insurance Act, or the Children's Health Insurance Program Act.

13 "Dental specialist" means a person who has received a  
14 license as a dentist in this State and who is trained and  
15 qualified to practice in one or more of the following  
16 specialties of dentistry: endodontics, oral and maxillofacial  
17 surgery, orthodontics, pedodontics, periodontics, and  
18 prosthodontics.

19 "Dentist" means a person who has received a general license  
20 pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 11 of the Illinois Dental  
21 Practice Act, who may perform any intraoral and extraoral  
22 procedure required in the practice of dentistry, and to whom is  
23 reserved the responsibilities specified in Section 17 of the

1 Illinois Dental Practice Act.

2 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

3 "Designated shortage area" means a medically underserved  
4 area or health manpower shortage area as defined by the United  
5 States Department of Health and Human Services or as otherwise  
6 designated by the Department of Public Health.

7 "Educational loans" means higher education student loans  
8 that a person has incurred in attending a registered  
9 professional dental education program in this State.

10 "Program" means the educational loan repayment assistance  
11 program for dentists and dental specialists established by the  
12 Department under this Act.

13 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

14 (110 ILCS 948/15)

15 Sec. 15. Establishment of program. The Department shall  
16 establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for  
17 dentists and dental specialists who practice in designated  
18 shortage areas in this State and who accept certain dental  
19 payments as defined under this Act. The Department shall  
20 administer the program and make all necessary and proper rules  
21 not inconsistent with this Act for the program's effective  
22 implementation. Assistance under the program shall commence  
23 once the dentist or dental specialist begins (i) practicing in  
24 a designated shortage area and (ii) accepting dental payments.

25 The Department may use up to 5% of the appropriation for this

1 program for administration and promotion of dentist and dental  
2 specialist incentive programs.

3 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

4 (110 ILCS 948/25)

5 Sec. 25. Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance under  
6 the program, an applicant must meet all of the following  
7 qualifications:

8 (1) He or she must be a citizen or permanent resident  
9 of the United States.

10 (2) He or she must be a resident of this State.

11 (3) He or she must be practicing full time in this  
12 State as a dentist or dental specialist.

13 (4) He or she must currently be repaying educational  
14 loans.

15 (5) He or she must accept dental payments as defined in  
16 this Act. The Department may not set a minimum amount of  
17 dental payments as a condition of eligibility.

18 (6) He or she must commit to ~~continue~~ full-time  
19 practice in this State in a designated shortage area for a  
20 minimum of 2 years.

21 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

22 (110 ILCS 948/30)

23 Sec. 30. The award of grants. Under the program, for each  
24 year that a qualified applicant practices full time in this

1 State in a designated shortage area as a dentist or dental  
2 specialist, the Department shall, subject to appropriation,  
3 award a grant to that person in an amount equal to the amount  
4 in educational loans that the person must repay that year.  
5 However, the total amount in grants that a person may be  
6 awarded under the program must not exceed \$25,000 per year for  
7 each year of eligibility. No person may receive grants for more  
8 than 4 years ~~a 4 year period~~. The Department shall require  
9 recipients to use the grants to pay off their educational  
10 loans.

11 (Source: P.A. 95-297, eff. 8-20-07.)

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13 becoming law.